In the Claims:

1. (amended) A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) directly actuateable by a user, articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever ~~it~~ to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions and wherein the device further comprises a means (12; 13) for releasing the return of the lever (3) into its position preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction, said means (12; 13) for releasing being activated by an action consisting of exerting a defined tensile force in a defined direction on the free end (2b) of the lace (2) .

2. CANCEL WITHOUT PREJUDICE ~~The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim 1, which comprises a means (12; 13) for releasing the return of the lever (3) into its position preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction when a defined tensile force is exerted in a defined direction on the free end (2b) of the lace (2).~~

3. (amended) The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the means (12; 13) for triggering the return of the lever (3) comprises a buckle (12; 13) articulated on the lever (3) and inside which the lace (2) slides.

4. (amended) ~~The brake device (30) as claimed in claim 1,~~ A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions
wherein the holding means (15, 16) comprise a stud (15) made on the base part (1) or lever (3), respectively, interacting with a housing (16) made on the lever (3) or base part (1), respectively.

5. (amended) ~~The brake device (31) as claimed in claim 1,~~ A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions wherein the holding means (17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) comprise at least one notch (17a, 17b) made in the base part (1), interacting with at least one notch (18a, 18b) made on ~~the~~ a buckle (13), in which the lace (2) passes.

6. (amended) The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part of the lever for coming into contact with the lace (2) has teeth (7) ~~that make it possible~~ to increase the coefficient of friction between the lever (3) and the lace (2).

7. The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic means (11) for returning the lever (3) into its position of contact with the lace (2) is a compression spring (11).

8. (amended) ~~The brake device as claimed in claim 1,~~ A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions wherein the elastic means for returning the lever (3) into its position of contact with the lace (2) is a torsion spring mounted around ~~the~~ an articulation pin (4) of the lever (3) on the base part (1).

9. (amended) ~~The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim 1,~~ A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions wherein a boot-closure device of the type with a lever (51), tie (52), and buckle (53) is fixed on the base part (1).

10. (amended) The brake device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the closure device is mounted slideably on the base part (1), and wherein, when the lace (2) ~~it~~ is placed under tension in another direction, the lace ~~it~~ entrains the buckle (53) and thus the lever (3) into its position preventing the sliding of the lace ~~(2)~~ in one loosening direction.

11. (amended) ~~The brake device as claimed in claim 1,~~ A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the

sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions wherein the base part has hooks for interacting with a closure device of the type with a lever, tie and buckle in order to close the boot.

12. (amended) The brake device as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when ~~the~~ a latch ~~lever~~ (51) of a tightening device for opening the boot is manipulated, means ~~make it possible to~~ bring the lever (3) into a ~~its~~ stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions.

13. (new) A brake device (30; 31) for a lace (2), of a boot (31), sliding in a base part (1) linked to the boot (31), comprising a lever (3) directly actuateable by a user, articulated on the base part (1), returned by an elastic means (11) into a position of contact with the lace (2) preventing the sliding of the lace (2) in one direction by a pressing action, wherein the lever (3) has holding means (15, 16; 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b) enabling the lever to maintain a second, stable position allowing the sliding of the lace (2) in both directions.

14. (new) The brake device (30; 31) as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means (12; 13) for triggering the return of the lever (3) comprises a buckle (12; 13) articulated on the lever (3) and inside which the lace (2) slides.